

## BOOK REVIEWS

ROY C. DICKS (ed.). 2008. **Rhapsody in Green: the Garden Wit and Wisdom of Beverley Nichols**. (ISBN 978-03812-9485, hbk.). Timber Press, 133 S.W. Second Ave., Suite 450, Portland, Oregon 97204-3527, U.S.A. (**Orders:** [www.timberpress.com](http://www.timberpress.com), 1-800-827-5622, 1-503-227-3070 fax). \$17.95, 135 pp., 6" × 7 1/2".

This little book is for aficionados of garden writer Beverley Nichols, most of whose works have recently been reprinted and from which the editor has chosen selections. Readers will take pleasure in his metaphors (fuchsias "with their white petticoats and crimson ruffs") and his likes and dislikes among the plants (disdain for *Datura*, which reminds him "of a clump of laurels on which somebody has hung the weekly washing."). For the most part the selections are cute aphorisms, sage advice, and amusing observations. —Joann Karges, *Texas Christian University Library (retired), Box 298400, Fort Worth, Texas 76129, U.S.A.*

BARBARA L. WILSON, RICHARD BRAINERD, DANNA LYTJEN, BRUCE NEWHOUSE, AND NICK OTTING OF THE CAREX WORKING GROUP. 2008. **Field Guide to the Sedges of the Pacific Northwest**. (ISBN 9780870711978, pbk.). Oregon State University Press, 121 The Valley Library, Corvallis, Oregon 97331, U.S.A. (**Orders:** <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/press/>, 1-800-426-3797). \$35.00, 431 pp., 6" × 9".

The *Field Guide to the Sedges of the Pacific Northwest* is the first illustrated guide for all 164 species, subspecies, and varieties in the genus *Carex* that occur in Oregon and Washington and throughout the Pacific Northwest. Sedges can be challenging to identify with differences between species based on small, technical characters. These differences are addressed for each species to facilitate identification.

The *Field Guide* is divided into three main parts: (1) information about sedge ecology, habitat management and restoration, ethnobotanical uses, and propagation; (2) identification key; and (3) species accounts. The primary portion of the book is the species accounts, with each species receiving a description, a distribution map, and three or more illustrations, mostly color photographs with a few botanical line drawings. In addition, there are collecting tips, a glossary, and bibliographical references.

The *Field Guide* provides a comprehensive and essential resource for botanists, land managers, restoration ecologists, and plant enthusiasts. And, as the genus *Carex* becomes increasingly important amongst landscapers, nurseries, and gardeners, the guide will serve as a handy tool for choosing Northwest natives for the garden. A very useful book with a binding that allows for easy opening. Recommended for public libraries, schools, and research organizations.

**About the Authors:** The *Carex* Working Group (Barbara L. Wilson, Richard Brainerd, Danna Lytjen, Bruce Newhouse, and Nick Otting) is made up of Oregon botanists fascinated by sedges and other difficult-to-identify plant groups. The CWG came together in 1993 to map the distribution of Oregon's sedges and incorporated in 2002. That effort cumulated in the publication of *Atlas of Oregon Carex* (1999). In addition to writing about and photographing sedges, the CWG contracts with public agencies and private companies to do plant inventories, plant identification workshops, and taxonomic research on plants of the western U.S.—Gary L. Jennings, *Librarian, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-4025, U.S.A.*